(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Foreign Trade Policy was announced in August, 2004 with the objective of doubling our percentage share of global merchandise trade within the next 5 years and to act as an effective instrument of economic growth by giving a thrust to employment generation. In 2003-04, India's exports stood at a little over US$ 63 billion. In 2007-08, they have exceeded US$ 155 billion. During the four years period, India's exports have grown around 2 $^{1/2}$ time, at a cumulative annual growth rate (CAGR) of 23%, year on year, way ahead of the average growth rate of international trade. Further as per estimates, the incremental exports over the past four years have created around 135 lakh new jobs.

(c) and (d) The Government keeps monitoring the emerging situation and takes suitable measures, as necessary, from time to time.

Priority to supply of iron ore to domestic steel producers

3878. SHRI M.V. MYSURA REDDY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether any request from the Indian Chamber of Commerce has been received in his Ministry directing the public sector mining companies to prioritise supply of iron ore to domestic steel producers at reasonable rate;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government is thinking of putting a benchmark on ore prices in the long-term interest of the steel sector;

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) is there any proposal to ban the export of iron ore without value addition?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Indian Chamber of Commerce, Calcutta, has suggested that Government must issue directive to all Public Sector Mining Companies that they must accord priority of supply of iron ore (sized ore and fines) for domestic industry under long-term contracts wherein pricing can be linked to the cost of mining plus a reasonable ROI. Such prices may be subject to cost escalation annually.

(c) and (d) There is no such proposal under consideration at present.

(e) No, Sir.

Special package for tea plantation sector in Kerala

3879. SHRI THENNALA G. BALAKRISHNA PILLAI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the total special package amount for the development of tea plantation Sector in Kerala announced;